



**BATTLE OF THE BANDS**  
South Bay punk, ska groups  
showcase talent at local  
YMCA  
**A&E 6**

**THE OTHER HARD BALL**  
San Jose State University  
softball team winds up for start  
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**SPORTS 5**



**Cynically Optimistic**  
The tragedy of Columbia  
brings the world together ...  
at least for a moment  
**OPINION 2**

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# SPARTAN DAILY

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2003

## On the verge

Radio station prepares  
for its 40th anniversary

By Falguni Bhuta  
Daily Staff Writer

This year marks the 40th anniversary of KSJS, the San Jose State University radio station, which is a part of the television, radio, film and theater department. To celebrate this milestone, the station is hosting a formal event on Feb. 22 in the Student Union Ballroom by inviting more than 1,000 alumni from all over the country.

"The founder of KSJS, Clarence Flick, who served the station from 1963 to 1980, will be attending the celebration," said Michelle Robles, event coordinator for the alumni celebrations.

"People are coming from as far as Chicago and Florida. I am really excited about this and can't wait for it," said Nick Martinez, general manager at KSJS. "This is our way of giving back to the alumni that has been so dedicated."

Back in 1960, when SJSU was San Jose State College, a memo was sent to the college President John J. Wahlquist recommending that the college establish a radio station. That same year, a survey completed by radio and TV students indicated that only 26 percent of the students actually had the FM band on their radios, according to a department handout.

Finally, after the passing of a proposal sent in January 1962, KSJS 90.5 FM went on the air on Feb. 11, 1963. Transmitters and studios were bought for the station at the cost of \$11,000. Programming was limited to the hours of 8.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday through Friday and only during the fall and spring semesters, said the handout.



JaShong King / Daily Staff

Chemistry Professor Bradley Stone has worked with KSJS, the San Jose State University radio station, since 1985, serving as a faculty adviser and is a DJ for on-air jazz and electronic music programs at the station. With KSJS celebrating its 40th anniversary this month, Stone will still be around as one of the longest working DJs at the station.

Since then, KSJS has traveled a long, winding road and is now a fully operational radio station airing music 24 hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s, college radio stations influenced and reflected the general social change in America, and KSJS was also in the

eye of the storm.

During this period, students attempted to take over the radio station at gunpoint and a faction of them even attempted to start their own radio station, according to Martinez. This prompted the faculty to call for more control over the programming at KSJS.

"At the start, KSJS ran only 85 watts, but today we are operating on 1,500 watts," Martinez said. "By watts I mean the power the radio station runs on. In the beginning, it ran on power less than that of a 100 watt bulb."

Today, KSJS is a full-fledged radio channel heard by people of different

ages and backgrounds between San Francisco and Gilroy, Martinez said.

"I can say that KSJS is, by far, one of the better powered and powerful college stations in the Bay Area," Martinez said.

KSJS predominantly plays non-

See KSJS, page 3

## Recovery team finds shuttle's nose cone

HEMPHILL, Texas (AP) — Searchers found the nose cone of the space shuttle Columbia buried deep in a thick pine forest near the Louisiana border, officials said Monday night.

"It's reasonably intact," said Warren Zehner, a senior coordinator for the Environmental Protection Agency, which is overseeing collection of shuttle debris.

Zehner estimated the shuttle piece weighed about 500 pounds.

Since the shuttle broke up 39 miles over Texas, search teams have hunted down remains and debris in the rivers and woods of Louisiana and Texas — including a 6-to-7-foot chunk of the shuttle's cabin found in one rural county. Environmental and explosives experts, along with NASA officials, bagged up wreckage on Monday and transported it to airports now serving as evidence warehouses.

By late Monday afternoon, some 12,000 pieces of debris had been collected.

State troopers near the site where the nose cone was discovered described a hole about 20 feet wide in the pine forest. The troopers, who would not give their names, were stationed at a roadway to keep the media and others from the site.

About 10 searchers emerged from the woods with bags full of debris, including metal objects. They filled a bed of a pickup truck with debris. A crew was expected to arrive at the site on Tuesday to dig the nose cone out.

Throughout the day, investigators went from rural schools to a college campus gathering pieces of the space shuttle strewn across a disaster scene larger than West Virginia. The shuttle

See SHUTTLE, page 3

## County officials seek to end the use of racial slur

By Tony Burchyns  
and Maria Villalobos  
Daily Staff Writers

The Santa Clara County Human Relations Commission wants "nigger" — and "niggah" — eliminated from people's speech, be they white or black, racist or oppressed, or anything in between.

Last week the commission voted to begin crafting a new resolution denouncing what it sees as racial slurs and other epithets, making no exception for hip-hop artists, entertainers or everyday people on the street, said Jim McEntee, director of the Office of Human Relations.

"This is encouraging people to respect each other," McEntee said. "We live in a multicultural community."

Motivation for the proposed resolution came from the San Jose-based Coalition of Concerned Citizens and Organizations, a grass-roots group that advocates state legislation against public use of the N-word, said

Delorme McKee-Stovall, coordinator of Santa Clara County's Network for Hate Free Community.

"It's a resolution to try to get the community leadership to denounce and educate about the impact of the word," McKee-Stovall said. The commission is an advisory body to the county Board of Supervisors.

Eliminating N-word flagrancy could bolster the African American community, according to San Jose State University students Lemar Wilson and Desiree Villareal.

"It should be banned," said Wilson, a junior sociology major. "It's bad for the community. I'd spit on somebody if they said that to me."

Even as slang, the N-word is negative and demeaning, said Villareal, a junior speech communications major. However, it may be here to stay, she said.

"Oh, I don't think you're really going to stop the use of that word," Villareal said. "I don't think it's a good word, but people use it."

How and when people use the N-word determines what it means, said

Joe C. Canton, an African American studies professor.

"Within oppressed groups, slurs have different social connotations," Canton said.

SJSU students also see the problematic term as having distinct, opposite meanings.

"It's kind of weird," said Wayshaun Latimer, a sophomore nursing major. "Sometimes we say it, but it doesn't mean the same thing when other races say it."

In his recent book, "Nigger: The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word," Randall Kennedy writes, "Just as a son is privileged to address his mother in ways that outsiders cannot, so, too, is a member of a race privileged to address his racial kin in ways prescribed to others."

SJSU freshman Darius Douglas agreed with Kennedy.

"There are a lot of racial slurs, not just the N-word," said Douglas, a psychology major. "It's like a greeting, but if you are non-black and you say it, it's offensive."

Aside from race, people's back-

ground and upbringing factor in to the code of acceptable N-word use, according to one student.

"For me, it's slang, like 'what's up, niggah?'" said senior Alpha Aquisap. "I never use it to offend anyone. It depends on where you grew up and how you were raised."

Despite her good intentions, Aquisap said she once unwittingly offended a friend.

"I know the history, and I'm not like that," Aquisap said.

That the history of the word has been taken lightly upsets African American studies professor, Steve Millner. With or without malice, the word carries unpleasant memories, Millner said.

"When you've been called 'nigger' in Mississippi as I have, you never look at that word as a term of endearment," Millner said.

"People who want to embrace it need to study the history of its misuse — I think that would give them pause," Millner said.

See SLUR, page 4

## Political science professors to speak today about book

By Kimberly Lapham  
Daily Staff Writer

A forum discussion featuring San Jose State University political science professors and authors, Terry Christensen and Larry Gerston, will take place Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. in the Spartan Bookstore.

Christensen and Gerston will discuss their book, "California Politics and Government: A Practical Approach," which was published in December 2002.

They chose to write the book because they wanted to create something better than what was available, Gerston said.

"We checked out the competition and thought, 'We can do better than this,'" Gerston, who serves as political analyst for KCBS radio and NBC11, said.

"I don't choose to write a book as much as I'm drawn to it," he said.

The book, which is released every

two years, was published five weeks after the California elections. Gerston said he and Christensen tried to forecast the outcome of the elections when writing. He said they made any needed changes right after the election so the book will have the most accurate and recent information.

The discussion will cover the production of the book, including the experience of working together as co-authors for 14 years, said Christensen, who has taught at SJSU for 33 years.

"It is really important to work with somebody you respect and who respects you," said Gerston, who has taught at SJSU for 29 years. "It's a bit like a marriage."

Christensen, who has authored six books, said they will discuss how California politics have changed. Gerston, who writes a column for the monthly San Jose magazine, said they

See BOOK, page 3

## It's all such a blur to me



Josh Sturgis / Daily Staff

Students walked across campus in view of the new library, Monday. The library is scheduled to open in Fall of 2003. The library is a joint venture between the City of San Jose and San Jose State University.

## Local news TV anchors speak about diversity

By Norikazu Ambo  
Daily Staff Writer

Two veteran Bay Area television journalists offered recipes for success in the field of journalism to about 40 San Jose State University students Monday.

"Willingness and desire are what it

takes," said Dana King, news anchor for KPIX(Channel 5).

Janice Edwards, news producer and writer at KNTV(Channel 11) said, "Passion is the key. Pursue (your dream) and hold on to it."

King and Edwards, both female African Americans, spoke at the first in a series of three presentations on

diversity during Black History Month, sponsored by the school of journalism and mass communications.

Emmy Award-winning news anchor King offered students advice.

"Be open-minded and be persistent," she said.

King began her broadcasting career in Los Angeles as a general assignment

reporter and later became an early morning news anchor at KABC-TV.

She then moved to a network as news anchor on "Good Morning America Sunday" and went on to become an assignment reporter at CBS News.

After graduating from college, King

See KING, page 4

## More than \$40k in scholarships available in art department

By Wendy Lopez  
Daily Staff Writer

The school of art and design at San Jose State University is offering scholarships this spring semester to all art and design students seeking financial assistance.

The school distributes more than \$40,000 in scholarships each year, said

Gladys Crowell, secretary of the College of the Humanities and the Arts.

Robert Milnes, director of the school of art and design, said that contributions are from annual endowments, or gifts of money invested and private corporations.

These funds pay for the scholarship ceremony as well as for their supplies, Crowell said.

The various programs within the school, such as ceramics and graphic design, have access to scholarships which can be up to \$1,500, said Robert Milnes, director of the school of art and design.

The Sandra Johnstone Memorial Scholarship, one of the biggest scholarships available in the department on an annual basis, is available to both graduates and undergraduates, Milnes said.

"Sandra Johnstone was a teacher in the ceramics department," Milnes said. "When she died, fellow colleagues and friends got together and started this memorial."

This year, almost 80 of the 100 graduates and half of the 60 undergraduates won a scholarship, Milnes said.

While there is a lot of money avail-

See SCHOLARSHIPS, page 3



CYNICALLY OPTIMISTIC

# Shuttle disaster reminds us that we're all human

A flash of bright light in the hazy blue sky on the edge of space split, shimmered and disappeared like fading embers of a tragic fire.

A crew of seven intrepid explorers spent their last moments peering down on Earth, gazing from the heavens where they would soon sadly finish their journey.

A nation sat in shock, with some of its members feeling a somber déjà vu as they recalled a similar tragedy 17 years before. Echoes of the 1986 Challenger space shuttle disaster resounded Saturday as the Columbia met an untimely end in its attempt to come back home.

However, home has changed a lot in the years between. In the mid-80s, the United States was mired deep in a conflict with no blood and no foreseeable resolution.

The chill of the Cold War penetrated the American psyche, and seemingly every government program was geared at rending the "Iron Curtain," destroying the "Evil Empire" and obliterating the perceived plague of communism. An intrinsic animosity had existed between the United States and the Soviet Union for more than 30 years.

The space program was one of the many ways the United States was trying to one-up its Soviet foe. Ever since the 1957 launch of the Soviet satellite Sputnik, the United States and the Soviet Union played a careful game, and what started as sending hunks of metal into

orbit soon became a full-fledged race to the Moon. When the dream was finally realized by the United States in 1969, the Soviets gave their polite applause. The West had won.

This same rivalry was present, albeit in a lighter form, on the day that the Challenger exploded 73 seconds after takeoff. The world grieved, but it grieved divided.

On Saturday, the tragedy took place over an Earth where the Soviet Union no longer existed.

The United States was the only remaining superpower. No longer did we have a gigantic communist rival that caused us to tiptoe around in our strange little dance of national nuclear bravura. We stood high, and at times, we stood alone.

And despite the love and hatred that the nations espoused toward our country, the world over shared in the universal grief that crept around the globe and into our souls.

We mourned for the first Israeli in space, Ilan Ramon. He carried the hope of a nation, of a faith that has suffered throughout much of recorded history. The symbolism of his death is almost too painful to accept — like the

hopes for peace and reconciliation in the Middle East, so many attempts are sadly extinguished.

We also mourned for Kalpana Chawla, an Indian astronaut who had ties right here in Sunnyvale. She had already logged 6.5 million miles in space. Her dreams literally reached to the stars, and she achieved them. From a country with extremes of opulence and poverty, her accomplishments spoke of incredible intelligence and ambition.

We mourned for the Americans who valiantly dared to defy nature's constraints and ventured beyond our world, into the realm of many a person's dreams. They soared above in dedication and commitment to exploration and scientific discovery.

The men and women of the Columbia space shuttle should be remembered as distinct individuals, but they should also be remembered as a team. They transcended the cultural, social and gender barriers that encumber much of the rest of this world.

They knew the risk involved and were aware that the odds of survival in an accident were slim to nil. However, danger was not one to stop these people in the pursuit of living their dreams and continuing scientific study in the

most amazing laboratory imaginable.

When they died, a world of knowledge and experience died with them, but moreover, family members will never see their smiling faces again. Children are fatherless, motherless. Friends will grieve and remember happy memories, knowing that for now, memories are all they can cling to.

The silver lining to this dark cloud exists in the knowledge that our world, though fragmented and violent as ever, looked to the sky together for a brief moment and mourned the loss of members of the human race.

Seventeen years ago, astronauts and Soviet cosmonauts were rivals. Saturday, Russian President Vladimir Putin called President Bush to express his condolences.

Even some Iraqi officials shared their sorrow. The real sorrow here is how, almost as quickly as the ship disintegrated, we will all go back to the fighting, killing and hatred that separate us.

But for this brief moment, we join in our mutual sadness. And by joining, we can perhaps get a glimmer of a brighter future, with the hope that peace won't disappear in a blinding flash of somber light.

Melinda Latham is the *Spartan Daily Opinion Editor*. "Cynically Optimistic" appears Tuesdays.



MELINDA LATHAM

## Letter | Response to Columbia tragedy

Dear Editor,

This is in response to the seven astronauts killed on the space shuttle Columbia on February 1, 2003.

The cost of exploration is high.

The cost of ignorance is higher.

During this time of mourning, perhaps the words of World War II pilot John Gillespie Magee Jr. can bring us solace from his poem "High Flight."

"...while with silent, lifting mind I've trod the high

untrodden sanctity of space, put out my hand, and touched the face of God."

P.S. John Gillespie Magee Jr. was an American who joined the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War II and died at the age of 19.

Lawrence Eagletears Miller  
alumnus  
criminal justice

## Viewpoint | Response to 'Digital Boy'

Dear Editor,

First of all, Iraq has been thumbing its nose at the U.N. for four years now by violating their treaty obligation.

Nothing was happening on this until we got involved.

Should we wait for the French to do something? We'll see a mushroom cloud over Tel-Aviv before that happens. What are the consequences for Iraq failure to comply? Should the United States follow the lead of an organization that puts Libya in charge of its Human Rights Commission?

Second, I'm sick and tired of every potential use of military force being called "another Vietnam." During the Gulf War it was, "Oh no, the fourth largest army in the world. This could be another Vietnam." Or we read how Bosnia and Afghanistan would be "another Vietnam." Get a clue. We learned from Vietnam and these have been entirely different circumstances.

Third, giving drugs to the African nations will not help the AIDS crisis there; in fact, it will make it worse.

Aside from the corrupt middlemen who will probably seize

the drugs and black-market them, there is a strict regimen to follow in taking these drugs. These are primitive people with little medical infrastructure. When they fail to get enough drugs or stop the regimen when they feel better, they will go back to spreading it around. Worse yet, they are likely to develop resistant strains, like the tuberculosis in Russia. Education about prevention is the key in Africa.

Lastly, your analysis of the hydrogen car issue is ludicrous. The hydrogen is supplied by water and no, these are not "little Hindenburgs." You want to be less reliant on foreign oil and help the environment, but as soon as an idea is being developed you come up with a lame, off-base critique. You'll be the first guy to line up and criticize the administration when Israel gets hit by Anthrax from Iraq saying, "Why didn't we stop this when we could have?"

Jim Knoll  
senior  
business management

## ROSE COLORED GLASSES

# It's not easy being green: my choice to eat no meat

I'm a vegetarian.

That's right.

I don't eat cows, pigs, chickens, turkeys, fish or any other type of animal.

I do eat egg and dairy products, so even I am not the ultimate animal savior.

This is my decision.

It was made about three years ago after learning about Mad Cow Disease and becoming grossed out enough to resist meat for a week. Once I realized how easy it was to keep meat out of my diet, I thought I'd try it for a little longer since I always felt bad for eating animals anyway.

I'm not saying I don't occasionally miss the flavor of chicken strips or of a Ballpark Frank, but the temptation has never pushed me over the edge.

I don't want any meat, thanks.

Please don't tell me I should eat it. I don't tell you that you shouldn't.

People love to tell me how humans are omnivores and can eat meat. While that may be true, the argument goes both ways. Because we are omnivores and not carnivores, we don't have to eat meat to sustain our lives.

Typically, my retorts to these types of remarks are scoffed at and dismissed, yet my point of view is as valid as anyone else's.

Despite popular beliefs that vegetarians are preachy, annoying people, most of the ones I know are far from it.

We do our own thing, choose our own foods and try our hardest to not disrupt other people's meal plans.

It's true — sometimes going to Black Angus or another steakhouse doesn't exactly fit our diet, but compromises can be made.

We try to accommodate our friends' taste buds and go where they want, while we eat the same garden salad or veggie burger for the 100th time.

Trust me, you're not the only ones being inconvenienced. I know what you're thinking: "But it's your choice to be a vegetarian, so you'd better learn how to deal with it."

You're right.

I have learned to deal with it.

I've become so accustomed to dining out at a variety of places and ordering the token vegetarian dish that I hardly notice it, let alone mind, anymore.

The only time I do notice is when other people mention it.



LEA BLEVINS

I don't mind answering questions about why I choose to be vegetarian or how it's working out for me. I just get sick of being told I should eat meat or being made fun of for my personal choices.

I don't make fun of people who choose to eat animals. I don't ask them why they eat meat, call them heartless or try to invade their personal habits.

My choice is as valid as theirs.

I'm just trying to do what I feel is the right thing, yet I end up being considered the enemy or the weird girl.

Although I don't particularly enjoy this aspect of being vegetarian, I have learned to accept it. It comes with the decision.

When I made this decision three years ago, I had no idea how seemingly controversial I was about to become in the eyes of other people.

This hasn't necessarily been a bad thing, though.

I actually like explaining my beliefs to those who are interested, and I like hearing how their opinions differ or agree with mine. Vegetarianism is one of the only political ideas I feel passionate enough about to actually live my life according to it.

By doing so, I don't consider myself to be inconveniencing anyone. Despite this, some people who eat meat make it seem like vegetarians are the intrusive ones.

Somewhat that just doesn't compute.

I witness other people eating meat on a regular basis, and I don't see it as invasive. I don't understand how my not eating meat actually affects other people who do.

It is possible for vegetarians and for meat eaters to hold and practice their separate beliefs while still respecting the decisions of the other.

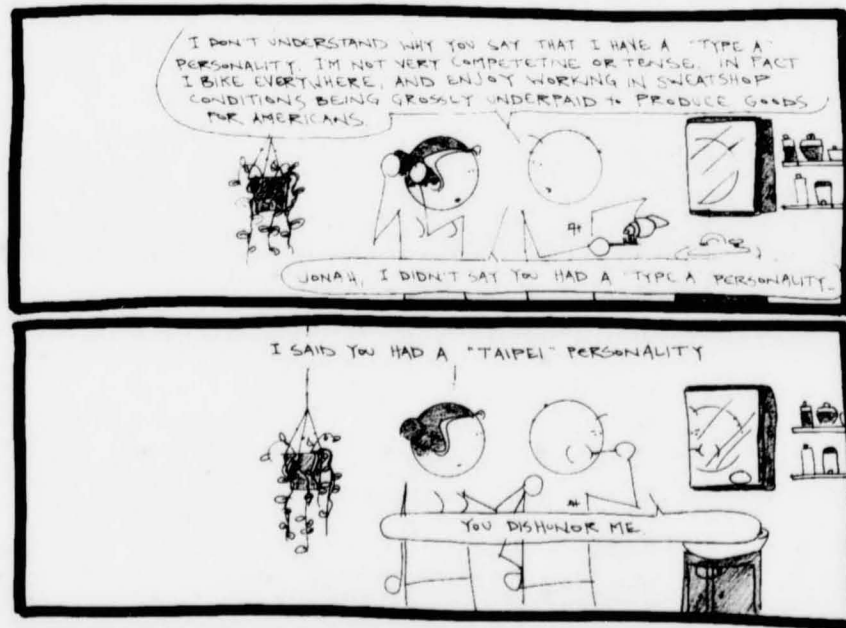
I'm not saying that everyone who eats meat is against being vegetarian.

I realize that plenty of meat eaters respect my beliefs in the same way I respect their beliefs. We may not agree, but that does not mean we can't accept each other's choices.

I guess if this is the way I'm going to choose to live my life, I have to come to terms with the fact that as long as I don't eat meat, there will always be someone who does who won't get off my back about it.

Lea Blevins is the *Spartan Daily Arts and Entertainment Editor*. "Rose Colored Glasses" appears Tuesdays.

## ANOTHER DIMENTIAN | JONAH PTAK



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# KING | Speakers offer advice, encourage individuality

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said she made up her mind to be a journalist. Since then, her conviction hasn't changed, she said.

"It took 10 years to come to this stage," King said.

She admitted having made mistakes and instructed students to "Make sure not to make the same mistake again."

A well-respected Bay Area talk show host, Edwards stressed commitment to her career and suggested students to work extra hours for what they want, she said.

Edwards, community relations direc-

tor, host and producer of "Community Focus," started her career in Atlanta as co-host of a teen talk show for WSB radio. Before working for NBC-11, she was a reporter and update anchor at KRON's BAYTV and host of "Black Renaissance," the longest running talk show dedicated to the African American community in the Bay Area.

She said her curiosity was what drew her into broadcast journalism.

In terms of diversity, "the face of America is changing," King said.

"We have to have more people who look like me," she said.

During the open discussion, she answered a student who questioned how diverse the newsroom has to be. She said that first, it's important to have people from different countries, backgrounds, interests and even minds. Second, opportunities have to be available.

In fact, both speakers' local news stations are diverse — mingled with African Americans, Latinos and Asians, they said.

King pointed out that diversity in the newsroom is not about external appear-

ance of ethnic groups but about people's internal qualities such as open-mindedness and non-judgmental spirit.

"Each individual background manifests itself," King said.

As a female broadcaster, she said the gender difference doesn't matter as long as she believes in herself in any circumstance.

Edwards also conveyed a strong message of the importance of individuality. She said, "Believe in yourself and know the vision of your dream whatever your skin color is." Then, she joked that some say black people have to work twice as much as those who

are not.

David Chow, a sophomore majoring in ethnic studies and who was born in China, said he was excited to see King in person. He said, "I remember the first person I saw on TV when a '90s earthquake hit was Dana King." Also commenting on diversity, he said,

"That's all this country is about."

Aileen Garcia, a sophomore in broadcasting, said she learned a lot from the discussion.

When she questioned King after the speech on how to avoid personal opinion in reporting, King said, "It'll be easy to get away from it. If you once put your opinion, the public won't trust you any more."

After hearing the lecture, Domingo Ramos, a junior advertising major, said he began to seriously consider changing his major to broadcasting.

He said he was surprised that "the newsrooms are so diverse," and that time went by fast because he was captivated by their points of view.

Garcia and Ramos both said they are looking forward to attending the next meeting.

*"Believe in yourself and know the vision of your dream whatever your skin color is."*

Janice Edwards,  
News producer, KNTV 11



JaShong King / Daily Staff

KPIX anchorwoman Dana King talks to a group of students in the Student Union during a forum on diversity in media while moderator Grace Provenzano looks on. King, an Emmy-Award winner, was a part of such programs as Good Morning America and CBS Morning News in addition to her work as a local anchorwoman.

## Committee meets to select new WTC design finalists

NEW YORK (AP) — Officials overseeing the effort to rebuild ground zero met privately Monday to pick the final two designs to replace the World Trade Center.

Matt Higgins, a spokesman for the Lower Manhattan Development Corp., said the committee "reached a consensus" during its four-hour meeting. He wouldn't elaborate.

A design that evokes the original trade center with twin latticework towers, and another that exposes the foundation walls of the old towers emerged as leading contenders in recent discussions. Higgins said an announcement on the finalists would be made Tuesday afternoon, with a final choice planned later this month.

Six of the eight members of the committee charged with picking the finalists came from the Lower

Manhattan Development Corp., the agency created to rebuild downtown Manhattan, and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which owns the trade center site.

A source familiar with the rebuilding effort said development corporation staff and board members meeting last month favored designs from the team of architects known as THINK and from Daniel Libeskind.

The THINK team, led by New York-based architects Rafael Vinoly and Frederic Schwartz, proposed the World Cultural Center, whose lacy 1,665-foot towers have been called 21st-century Eiffel Towers.

Libeskind, who designed Berlin's Jewish Museum, proposed starkly geometrical buildings clustered around the foundations of the fallen towers and topped by a 1,776-foot spire.

# SLUR | Banning words could be violation of rights

continued from page 1

As odious as the N-word is to some, the First Amendment prevents, in no uncertain terms, flat-out bans on specific words and symbols.

For this reason a resolution rather than an ordinance makes sense to the Human Relations Commission, said Network For Hate Free Community coordinator, Delorme McKee-Stovall. "As far as (the Coalition of Concerned Citizens and Organizations) wants and desires and agenda for passing an ordinance or state law, we don't see how it will happen," McKee-Stovall said.

To some, a county resolution sounds hollow.

"I'm offended by the word, but their efforts will be a waste of time," said Leroy Barnette, a building services engineer for Facilities Development and Operations. "Why don't they use their time tutoring kids and educating folks?"

Some SJSU students have similar doubts about policing the N-word.

"To pass it as a law wouldn't work because you couldn't enforce it," said Bob Deylan, an undeclared sophomore.

Overuse has diluted the derogatory roots of the term, according to another student.

"It's so widely used that it doesn't come across so harshly as in the past," Robin said. Warnock, a junior hospitality management major, said, "They (law-makers) can't say when you can and cannot say it."

Such obtuse legislative action against freedom of speech would be unacceptable, Millner said.

"First, as a scholar and one who appreciates the necessity for the First Amendment, I'm always reluctant to accept a ban on any form of expression. But I understand what motivates groups to educate and persuade members of the community, especially young blacks, about the despicable history of the word, and its hurtful pattern over eons of time," Millner said.

To clarify the history of the N-word, Millner said he exposes his students to literature and films.

"I have them read children's stories and songs from the 1800's. I have them watch Ku Klux Klan speeches from the 1960s and remind them how that word oppressed people of color,"

Millner said.

In his book, Randall Kennedy suggests rappers can positively flaunt convention by using the N-word.

However, with the provocative slur now prevalent in hip-hop, Millner said he feels offended.

"When rappers use the word 'nigger' in their music, then white kids in suburbia begin to think they, too, can casually use that term in public ways," Millner said.

While driving in Almaden Valley, Millner said two white teenagers pulled up in a car beside him while blasting N-word-laden rap music. The teenagers, singing along and laughing, looked directly at Millner.

"I rolled up my window and my blood was boiling," Millner said.

Some SJSU students think not using the N-word casually is the right choice.

"There's a lot of baggage that comes with that word," said Carrie Hults, a senior philosophy major. "I've always been raised that that word is a negative word — a bad word. I don't use it."

Hults said she fails to see any positive side to the N-word.

"I don't see why people use it with each other," Hults said. "It's a respect issue. It's negative, and negative feeds negative."

When in doubt, leave it out, said Jason Maung, a sophomore mechanical engineering major.

"I hear a lot of people use it who are non-black," Maung said. "It's like the word 'dude.' It probably doesn't mean anything harmful, but it just doesn't sound right."

## Bush budget has little new money for forest treatment

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration's new budget released Monday would provide little new funding to treat thick, overgrown forests that it said were to blame for catastrophic wildfires that scorched more than 7 million acres last year.

The administration wants to spend \$416 million in 2004 to cut excess trees in 2.5 million acres of forests that are at severe risk for fire. That is an increase of \$3 million over the amount the president proposed for the current year and some say it is not enough.

"That's grossly inadequate," said Mike Francis, a forest specialist with The Wilderness Society. "What is this administration all about — tax cuts for the rich or protecting people's homes?"

Sen. Jeff Bingaman, D-N.M., the ranking Democrat on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, said the administration's recommendation doesn't even keep pace with inflation and he expects members of Congress in the West to push for more money.

"Obviously the need is enormous," he said. "They talked a lot about it. They just didn't request the funds to do much."

The Bush proposal seeks \$231 million for Forest Service treatment programs for the 2004 budget year — up from \$228 in Bush's 2003 request — and \$186 million for Interior Department programs, about the same as his current request.

Mark Rey, the Agriculture Department's undersecretary for natural resources, who oversees the Forest Service, said that although the increase is not as large as some would have liked, administration proposals to streamline environmental analyses that go into treating forests should enable the department to do more with the money they get.

"I think we're going to see better use of the money in '04 in terms of

getting work done on the ground," he said.

The 2002 fire season was the second-worst on record, just behind the 2000 season. More than 7.1 million acres burned nationwide, most of it in the Western United States. At the time, the Bush administration called for more timber cutting in forests and changes to the environmental assessments.

The request released Monday would be for forest treatment in the budget year that begins Oct. 1. Congress will set the final spending levels, but the proposal provides a starting point for future budget battles.

The National Interagency Fire Center said two weeks ago that much of the northern Rocky Mountains and parts of the East are primed for another above-average fire year this year because of severe drought conditions. The Forest Service also estimates that excessive growth has left more than 70 million acres of forest land at risk for catastrophic fires.

However, the Bush administration's request would not allow the Forest Service to treat as many acres in 2004 as they plan to treat this year, according to figures sent to members of Congress last week.

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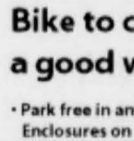
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# CD REVIEWS



Lou Reed  
The Raven

Lou Reed is a revolutionary musician.

Along with the growly-voiced 1960s comrades-in-arms Bob Dylan and Neil Young, he helped change the face of rock 'n' roll with his mix of gravelly morbidity and evocative activism.

Edgar Allan Poe is guaranteed an immortal place in the history of literature.

The crawling paranoia of his mordant 19th-century horror tales is still evident in today's interest in the strange and the macabre.

It is doubly frustrating then that "The Raven," the CD album celebrating the union of these two kindred spirits, turns out to be so tepid.

The album combines a number of Reed songs with spoken-word readings of passages from Poe's work. The first song, "Edgar Allan Poe," sets the tone: dark, impressionistic and stubbornly dissonant.

Characteristically, it's hard to separate the good from the bad in Reed — in many of the songs, such as "A Thousand Departed Friends," the same radical impulse that makes his work so exciting is tied to a scratchy monotony that grates long after invention has faded.

Reed has arranged for a batch of his colleagues and friends to contribute to the album, with mixed results.

"Guilty," with sax legend Ornette Coleman, doodles awkwardly, while "Hop Frog," David Bowie's segment is simply weird.

By contrast, the Poe readings come off surprisingly well, probably because the actors' cadences reverberate with juicy theatricality.

Willem Dafoe admirably captures the growing gothic tension in his reading of the title poem, while Steve Buscemi and Amanda Plummer offer welcome breaks from the CD's somber atmosphere with vivid interpretations of "Broadway Song" and "Triptena's Speech," respectively.

Reed's brand of off-putting experimentation is clearly the polar opposite of the relentless vapidity of today's bubblegum pop groups, and for that he should be respected.

One can only hope never to be limited to these two extremes, however.

-Fernando Croce



Various Artists  
Biker Boyz

Rap lyrics and head banging music explode off the soundtrack of the upcoming movie "Biker Boyz." The movie stars Laurence Fishburne, who plays the main character, motorcycle ringleader King of Cali.

The first couple of tracks have an aggressive and an in-your-face feel, but none of the songs include profanity.

The director of this high-speed contemporary western movie is Reggie Rock Bythewood, who wanted the soundtrack to reflect the movie's outlook on bonds between family and friends.

John Houlihan, executive soundtrack producer said in a press release, "I was surprised and refreshed to learn that (Bythewood) wanted to make an album that sounded hard and appealed to riders and clubs — but without profanity or racial slurs."

Although the intent of Bythewood was to create a positive outlook on the soundtrack, a few songs like "Don't Look Down" by David Ryan Harris create a soft image that contradicts the image of a badass hardcore "ruff rider."

There are a few soft listening songs, and the transitions between songs are smooth but the concern is the connection between the visuals and music, since the movie is about a subculture where people live for speed and sport the rugged outlaw look.

In any case, listeners can nod their heads to featured artists like Redman and bang their heads to Metallica. As the soundtrack progresses, the fast pace shifts into a cruising gear of slow, easy beats like Tupac's "Kalifornia" performed by Mos Def.

The soundtrack has a variety of beats by lesser-known artists such as Non Phixion, JR Ewing and David Ryan Harris, so listeners may want to skip a few tracks to get to the mainstream artists.

Overall the soundtrack is fueled with hard-edged music that complements the movie, but it can do without a few slow ballads.

-Huong Pham

# Band battle: It's fun to play at the Y-M-C-A

By Carrie Mattingly  
Daily Staff Writer

Six bands showed a crowd of nearly 200 on a Friday night how local musicians rock at the Battle of the Bands.

At the Santa Clara's Central YMCA, bands such as Printed Blanks, The Other Left, New Best Friend, Nothing Special, My Former Self and Fumunda demonstrated what the San Jose area has to offer.

"They're their own music," said attendee Rikki Dennis on Fumunda. "They are something you want to listen to."

Sean McCauley of Fumunda had first pick as to which bands were going to be a part of this showcase of local talent. Of the six-band line up, he picked bands that would provide a variety of music. The majority chosen were ska and pop punk.

New Best Friend and Fumunda cornered the Pop Punk sound. McCauley said he is not concerned with prizes but with getting the band's name out and playing for an audience.

Some say Fumunda resembles the mainstream punk band, Blink 182, according to McCauley.

"We leave it up to our fans to tell us what we sound like," McCauley said.

Teamed up with coordinator Sharelle Martin, the Battle of the Bands was specifically put on as a fundraiser to help students involved in the YMCA Youth in Government program to travel to the state capitol during the month of February. Students in the YMCA Youth in Government programs all across California are participating in the weeklong opportunity to take over the capitol.

The program costs up to \$1,500 per student although with subsidized funding the cost of the trip is cut in

half, according to Julie Goulart, associate program director for teenagers. In some cases \$700 is still too expensive and students need additional assistance. It is for this reason that the Battle of the Bands was organized.

Every other Friday night of the month at the Central YMCA, "Band Night" takes over as the youth activity for the evening.

"(It is) a musical outlet that keeps them off the streets," Goulart said.

Contrary to Band Night, the Battle of the Bands costs \$5 at the door. McCauley said with careful band selection the gymnasium nearly reached its capacity at 200 spectators.

"I wanted to put on a good show," McCauley said.

The attendees talked, joked and messed around while they moved their heads to the music.

Sammy Fabila, 21, of The Other Left said he was very excited to be playing at his first Battle of the Bands.

"We want to know what people's opinions are, if we are good enough," Fabila said.

As they covered The Cure's "Boys Don't Cry," someone in the audience yelled, "This is the best song!"

With a drum solo by Benny Vega and the continuous bass by Johnny Garcia, The Other Left ended the second set of the night. Fabila and Garcia hurled themselves onto the drums and into the lap of Vega to end their set.

"They didn't make noise," attendee Joe Silva, 56, said. "They made music."

The Other Left has played in Gilroy, San Francisco, Campbell and San Jose. They are currently in the process of putting out a CD.

Each band played a 40-minute set. Popularity showed when the crowd came closer and closer to the stage.



ABOVE: Six bands rocked the Central YMCA in San Jose at the Battle of the Bands.

RIGHT: Sammy Fabila lead vocalist and guitarist for the San Jose based band The Other Left played at the Central YMCA in the Battle of the Bands Competition Friday night.

The band My Former Self showed the greatest crowd involvement as the audience members bobbed their heads and swayed their bodies. Crowd involvement was one of the criteria the bands were judged on.

"A lot of the people in the crowd were singing along with them," McCauley, of Fumunda, said. "Overall they had everybody into it more."

For the final decision, the judging was in the hands of individuals in the crowd. Each band was rated on a scale from 1-10 and a tallied point total was made, Martin said.

The crowd involvement paid off for My Former Self, which took first place and a cash prize home. Eight points away from victory, Fumunda took second place.

"(I am) just happy to play," McCauley said.

Goulart said it was an overall successful event. The only complaint was the sound system.

"Next time (I) hope to have better sound," McCauley said.



Photos by: Vicki Thompson / Daily Staff

# Bob Barker back in prime time

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After a stagehand sweeps up, overexcited contestants wearing price tag-shaped name tags spill into the 320-seat studio at CBS Television City complex.

The chattering stops, though, when announcer Rod Roddy, whose shouts of "Come on down!" lure lucky participants from their seats, appears in a gold lame jacket to explain the rules before cameras roll on the daily taping of "The Price is Right."

Roddy good-naturedly makes contestants promise to restrain their passion when kissing host Bob Barker. They laugh. He urges them to listen carefully above the din for their names and to reach contestant's row quickly, even if it means stepping on toes on their way out of the cramped seats.

Moments later, the cameras' red lights go on and Barker, wearing a suit, tie and gold "BB" cuff links, emerges from behind the glittery doors bearing the name of the longest-running game show in television history.

"What I enjoy about the show is creating spontaneous entertainment with the contestants and the audience," Barker said later in his small dressing room. "I'm trying to find those interesting personalities with whom I can have some fun, get some laughs. I try to give each show its own personality and that's stimulating."

Last year, the 79-year-old Barker broke Johnny Carson's record for continuous performances on the same network show. Carson retired from NBC's "Tonight" show in 1992 after 29 years, seven months and 21 days. Barker is in his 31st year hosting a show that began in 1956 with Bill Cullen.

"The longevity is undoubtedly the greatest surprise of all," said Barker, who signed a five-year deal in 2001.

Despite recent knee and prostate surgeries, Barker says he's in good health. He credits daily walks, a nightly glass of wine, being a vegetarian and not smoking.

"I feel good and I enjoy doing the show, I have fun doing the show," he said. "Every year I think well, maybe I'll hang it up and hey, here I am still doing it."

The hour-long daytime show remains a ratings success. Last year, CBS aired seven prime-time versions that were among the network's highest-rated specials, so Barker is doing it again.

"The Price is Right Million Dollar Spectacular" on Wednesday at 8 p.m. EST is the first of three specials airing in February. The other shows will air Friday and Feb. 12.

"It's clear that he appeals to audiences in all time periods as well as to viewers of all ages," said Jack Sussman, senior vice president of specials for CBS.

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